

Friends of Hampton's Bark Parks Newsletter

September 5, 2004

DON'T FORGET - THE HOT DOG DIP IS HAPPENING AGAIN!!!!

For those of you who have participated before in the "Hot Dog Dips" (at Briar-Queen Pool in Hampton) you know that there is no more fun to be had anywhere!!! Well, the dip is happening again!! Lee and Betty Ann Croswell invite us all to participate with our four-leggers in a swim in their community pool.

This huge pool is concrete (no torn liner issues) and has two sets of steps that go down in the shallow end. The water ranges from three feet deep to twelve feet deep at the far end. Bring your favorite swim toys and your four-leggers toys too, wear your swim suit or shorts and T-shirt and be ready for a great day full of laughs. We veterans were absolutely amazed when we realized that the four-leggers actually swam to the steps and got out of the water to go potty on the grass!

If you or your four-legger are afraid of water -- join us anyway. There will be many people at the dip that will be happy to watch your pooch in the water if you don't want to get in yourself. The entire area is fenced so that leashes are unnecessary once inside the gate and there is plenty of grass for running and playing for those four-leggers who don't want to get in the pool.

Feel free to bring a picnic lunch if you wish -- there is ample room outside of the gate to eat while your four-legger remains inside the gated area! Please remember to bring everything you need for your picnic including drinks, utensils and trash bag!

PLACE: BRIAR-QUEEN POOL

1680 Duke Street, Hampton, Virginia

DATES: SEPTEMBER 11th and 12th

TIME: 10AM -- 2PM each day

COST: \$3. Per family -- no matter how many two-leggers and four-leggers you bring!

CONTACT: Mr. Lee Croswell for directions or more information 827-8380

MORE NEW BARK RANGERS for BUCKROE BEACH BARK PARK

The THIRD session of Bark Ranger Training has been completed and we have certified two more Bark Rangers. We are very pleased to have **Eric (Einstein)** and **Amy (Maddie)** joining the ten Bark Rangers that were certified from the first and second sessions. When you see our Bark Rangers at the Buckroe Beach Bark Park please greet them and thank them for the volunteer hours they are donating to help out the Park Ranger Aides.

BARKTOBERFEST COMMITTEE

Thank you to all of the members who showed up for the volunteer meeting that kicks off our plans to get BarktoberFest underway! If you are interested in volunteering please email me so I can send you the form to fill out regarding in what capacity you would like to help. The committees are forming now for those volunteer positions available and duties that need completing prior to the event and for the positions available and duties that need completing the days of the event. Mark

your calendars for Halloween weekend - that's BarktoberFest! Many of you have stopped me at the park and said you would really like to volunteer - and we want you to! Please let me send you this form, fill it out, and get it back to me so I can pass it along to the committee chairpersons and they can contact you!

SEPTEMBER IS A BUSY MONTH AT THE BUCKROE BEACH BARK PARK!!

SEPTEMBER 14TH - There is a meeting scheduled with the Buckroe Civic Association and Urban Design Associates to discuss plans to develop Buckroe Beach. Many ideas have been discussed, but the only way to find out what is really happening and the impact it will have on the Buckroe Beach Bark Park (whether it stays at Buckroe or moves) is to attend the meeting. I hope all of you will attend!

Meeting: St. Joseph's Catholic Church (Cordier Hall) Buckroe Avenue.

Time: 7:00pm - to get a seat better get there as early as 6:30pm

Date: September 14th.

SEPTEMBER 18TH: Yeah!!!! ::cheering:: ::whistling:: ::clapping:: ::pom pom twirling::!!!! The beach at Buckroe will reopen to our four-leggers as of the 15th of September! Therefore we are celebrating with a cookout in the gazebo behind the bark park on the 18th of September! At the cook-out we will celebrate the certification of our new Bark Rangers in addition to the beach reopening. Grills will be available and, hopefully, so will Paul's (Ollie) Mega Grill that is half gas and half charcoal and as big as the Hampton Coliseum, or so I'm told! :) So bring your dog and your hot dogs and a dish to share and we will hang out and have a great time. Dogs will be able to stay in the bark park, if you choose for yours to, as it is within barking distance of the gazebo and grills.

Time: 3pm - 6pm

Date: September 18th (Saturday)

Place: Gazebo behind the bark park at Buckroe Beach

Bring your own grillables and a dish to share with others

Assorted cold drinks, plates, cups, napkins, ice and cutlery will be provided

SEPTEMBER 22ND - This is the date set for the Hampton City Council to hear the new proposed ordinance governing cats in the city. According to Jesse Wallace, Assistant City Manager, he was unable to release a copy of the ordinance to be printed here since, as of the date of our telephone conversation, the text of the proposed ordinance had not yet been released to city council from his office and the office of the City Attorney. He did say however, that the rumor that feeding a stray cat in your neighborhood will be a class 3 misdemeanor and that cats will be classified as "a nuisance" was true as of then. He was not sure whether or not that wording would change in the final writing that would go to council. He also shared that the feral cat colonies currently established in Hampton would undergo major scrutiny as a result of proposed guidelines in the new ordinance. If you are interested in attending the meeting be sure to get there early as this will most likely be a standing room only meeting. if you are interested in speaking to council

regarding this issue the following is taken from the City Council FAQ's page at <http://www.hampton.gov>

"Sign in before the meeting on the sign-up sheet located at the rear of Council Chambers. Include your name and the subject on which you wish to speak including the docket number if it is an item on the agenda. If you wish to address Council on a non-agenda item, sign up at the beginning of the meeting to" be heard under "Audiences Granted to the General Public". There is a five (5) minute time limit."

Date: September 22nd

Time: 7:30pm

Place: City Council Chambers, 8th Floor, Hampton City Hall

Meetings are televised live on City Channel TV47 Hampton

SEPTEMBER 25TH - Shelton on the Bay, a retirement community in Phoebus on Mallory Street, is holding their annual Country Fair on this date with lots of fun things to do, entertainment, and good food! Included this year is a Dog Show. I don't have further information on the event at this time, but if you are interested in entering your dog in their dog show, or for more information on the details, please call **723-6669**.

THANKS to Paul (Ollie) for repairing the teeter totter at Buckroe Bark Park. It is now much more stable and is on the list to be painted on our upcoming workday in October prior to BarktoberFest. More on this work day at the park in the next newsletter! Thanks again Paul!

Remember: the Friends of Hampton's Bark Parks was established to provide hands-on help, as well as, financial support to the bark parks to help with improvements and maintenance. And, our long range goal is to establish, staff, and fund a storm shelter in Hampton where residents will be able to go with their pets during life-threatening storms.

Well folks, that's all the news for this issue and, as always, if you know a member of the parks who doesn't have email, please, print a copy and give it to them! See you at the parks!

Phyllis Flanders, Chair.
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